

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL**

**Summation of Minutes from
Tuesday February 6, 2007**

I. Introduction and Comments

Members present:

Duane Busick

Suzann Owen

Carl Zager

Jesse Strycker

Eric Ost

Others present:

Michael White, CATS

Wendy Henry, Insight Communications

Public:

None present

II. Approval of Minutes

Busick moved to approve the December 5, 2006 minutes. In favor: 4-0-1. Ost abstained from voting on the minutes since he did not receive them prior to the meeting.

Old Business

A). Rewriting of the Telecommunications Ordinance

IV. Public Comment

No public comment at this time

III. Reports and Announcements

A.) BTC Members

Zager had created an annual report template at the work session for the 2006 fiscal year for the Mayor's Office, the Common Council, the Board of Public Works and Information Technology. This includes the general responsibilities of the BTC. At the meeting they delegated what their tasks were for the fiscal year 2007. Owen stated that the City of Bloomington will be losing a local franchise that is one of the best in the State. Busick stated that with the new legislation that the telephone companies and the cable companies are getting their way with the new franchising laws. Busick stated since there was a deadline in the two remaining PEG channels that the BTC wanted to hurry and get the channels filled before the franchise laws took effect. Zager asked if there was going to be a second work session. Busick stated that there was going to be one. Busick stated that the template that Zager created for their annual report was a great one. Owen stated that she thought it should be stated very clearly that there is no longer a local franchise and that all complaints and monitoring will be forwarded to the correct entity if it is outside of what the BTC is able to do for the public. Busick asked if January 16th was good for the rest of the council for another work session. All were in favor. Busick stated he would try to get a room for the session and let everyone know where and what time it was going to be, with the meeting being done as close to 6:00 pm as possible. Owen stated that the FCC is in more turmoil right now than usual. Staff changes, new direction and a new Congress they are trying to figure out how they are going to eclipse the idea of a national franchise. Net neutrality has taken a different direction since the elections. The Bell-South merger has taken a lot of attention over most other issues.

B.) CATS

The report is in the official record.

White went over the report with the council.

White wanted to thank the BTC and Insight Communications for their patience and faith regarding the PEG Channels that are now up and running. White wanted to thank Jason Radke, Adam Stillwell, Martin O'Neill and the staff that helped make the channels possible. White also wanted to thank Ost for his help with the Government Channel and for updating the website.

Strycker asked about the advertising he saw on CATS for Polaris and it being new and improved and wondered if this was part of a media campaign to get this out to the public. White wanted to thank Insight and all the staff for their help with getting the word out. White stated that yes; this is the first bit of publicity for Polaris.

C.) Insight Communications

The report is in the official record.

Henry went over the report with the council. She stated that there were a lot of typing errors in the report and chose not to distribute it to the BTC.

Henry stated that Call Center calls were showing as being answered in less than thirty seconds or less. There was nothing abnormal in the report versus months prior.

Henry stated she was glad to hear that the two new PEG Channels are up and going smoothly.

Zager stated that he is still very unhappy with ICN and watching school sports from other cities and that there are three great high schools in Monroe County and that the city should be able to get their schools on this channel to view the games and other things that go on with other schools in the area. Ost stated that this channel was moved from a

higher PEG Channel to a lower channel and it does not benefit Bloomington. Henry stated that ICN is paid for by sponsors and they are who pays for the production of the shows that are shown on ICN. Zager stated he just does not understand the logic behind the advertising on the channel. Owen stated that she sees it as a business decision and the sponsors pay for the channel time. Zager said he understood it as being a business channel, but it still makes no sense to any of the athletic programs that are local. Zager stated that there does need to be local sponsors so that local high schools athletics can be viewed on this channel as well. Zager stated that Insight Communications does go above and beyond to assist and work with the community and they are appreciated. Owen stated that now there is a new franchise that Henry does not have to come to the meetings to report, but came anyway. Busick stated that he hoped that Henry would continue to come to the meetings.

D.) WTIU

The report is in the official record.

IV. Old Business

A.) The role of the BTC.

V. New Business

None

VI. Adjournment

The next official meeting of the Telecommunications Council will be Tuesday March 6, 2006 at 7:30 in the Council Chambers.